

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 1-19 are now present in this application. Claims 1, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 are independent. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8 and 9 have been amended. Claims 13-19 have been added.

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Drawing Objections

The drawings are objected to because of the misspelling of the word "figure". Further, reference numeral "5" in the drawings corresponds to a structural element referred to by reference numeral "4" in the specification and claims.

In order to overcome the objection to the drawings, Applicants have submitted proposed drawing corrections in a separate Letter to the Official Draftsperson. Specifically, Applicants propose to correct the spelling of "figure" and to change reference numeral "5" to --4-- in Figure 5. Accordingly, reconsideration of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Specification

The Examiner objects to the disclosure because reference numeral 12 appears in the figures but not in the specification.

Applicants have amended the specification by inserting paragraph [0033]. The inserted paragraph includes reference numeral 12 in a discussion concerning the functioning of a light decoupling element. The light decoupling element 12 is illustrated in Figure 1. Further, support for paragraph [0033] can be found in the originally filed application in paragraph [0014].

Accordingly, reconsideration of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicates that claims 2, 3, 5-7 and 9-12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Allowable claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form as added claim 13. Allowable claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form as added claim 15. Allowable claims 9-12 have been rewritten in independent form as added claims 16-19, respectively.

Accordingly, claims 13-19 should be in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include some of the structural limitations of allowable claim 2. It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 is also in condition for allowance. Therefore, claims 2-12 which depend directly or indirectly upon claim 1 should also be in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(e) as being anticipated by Glienicke. Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Glienicke. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Glienicke shows a mushroom-shaped light guide for illuminating a scale of a motor vehicle's instrument gauge, such as a tachometer or speedometer.

Applicants' independent claim 1 recites a combination of structural features wherein the light conductor element is in an interior space of one of a headlight and a taillight. Glienicke fails to show or suggest such an arrangement.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that

the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Mr. Scott L. Lowe (Reg. No. 41,458) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Applicant(s) respectfully petitions under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) and 1.17 for a one month extension of time in which to respond to the Examiner's Office Action. The Extension of Time Fee in the amount of \$110.00 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made
Letter to the Official Draftsperson

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification

The following paragraph has been inserted on page 10, after paragraph [0032]:

-- **[0033]** Referring again to Fig. 1, when a light-diverting surface 6 totally reflects the light of the light source 4, it is beneficial to provide at least one light decoupling element 12. If a light decoupling element 12 is not provided, the outer surface of the light conductor element 1, located behind the light-diverting surface 6, will appear dark because the light reaching the light-diverting surface 6 is totally reflected. The light decoupling element 12 allows the area behind the light-diverting surface 6 to show light. The light decoupling element 12 can be formed as a deflecting surface, such as a prism, groove or rib. --

In the Claims

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) Lamp for vehicles including: a light conductor element (1) that has at least one light in-coupling element (3) arranged between two adjacent light out-coupling elements (2), a light source (4) associated with a light in-

coupling surface (5) of the light in-coupling element (3), at least two light-diverting surfaces (6) of the light in-coupling element (3) each being respectively associated with one of the light out-coupling elements (2) and serving to divert light beams radiated from the light source (4) toward the respective light out-coupling element (2), wherein the light-diverting surfaces (6) of the light in-coupling element (3) are curved outwardly and have a common focus position (7) for the light source (4), **and wherein the light conductor element is in an interior space of one of a headlight and a taillight.**

2. (Amended) Lamp according to claim 1 wherein **[the light conductor element (1) is in an interior space of one of a headlight and a taillight and]** the light in-coupling surface (5) of the light in-coupling element (3) is arranged in a lower half of the one of the headlight and the taillight.

5. (Amended) Lamp according to claim 1 wherein a smallest spacing of the light in-coupling surface **[5] [(3)]** from the light-diverting surfaces (6) is a maximum of one and a half times a structural depth of the light out-coupling element (2).

7. (Amended) Lamp according to claim 1 wherein the **light conductor** **[light-conducting]** element (1) is associated with a reflector (8) and forms a component that covers the light source (4), with light out-coupling surfaces (10)

of the light out-coupling elements (2) facing a reflection surface (9) of the reflector (8) and light beams exiting from the light out-coupling surfaces (10) falling on the reflection surface (9) of the reflector (8).

8. (Amended) Lamp according to claim 1 wherein the light-diverting surfaces (6) extend parabolically, with rotation axes of the **paraboloids** **[parabaloids]** extending into the respective **light** out-coupling elements (2).

9. (Amended) Lamp according to claim 1 wherein the light-diverting surfaces (6) extend elliptically, with the light source (4) being arranged at a common first focus position (7) of the light-diverting surfaces (6) and two focus positions (11) lying on a line that extends into the respective **light** out-coupling elements (2).

Claims 13-19 have been added.